

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks and amendments. Claims 1, 17, and 24 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-30 are pending in the application.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7, 10-12, 17-22, and 24-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0196851 filed by Lecoutre (hereinafter “Lecoutre”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,259,741 issued to Chen et al. (hereinafter “Chen”).

Claim 1, as amended, recites the elements of “a partial decoding and decompression unit configured to partially decode and decompress coded data in accordance with the post-quantization condition set by the user using the condition setting unit, to thereby reproduce image data identical to image data reproduced by decoding and decompressing the coded data that have been subjected to a post-quantization processing in accordance with the post-quantization condition.” Support for the amendment is found, for example, in paragraph [0168] of the Specification.

Applicant respectfully submits that Lecoutre fails to teach or suggest these elements. Lecoutre, in contrast, proposes a method of converting a video data stream, including variable length decoding (VLD 21) the binary input stream (S1), requantizing (RQ 24) quantized DCT coefficients, and variable-length encoding (VLC 23) the data after requantization to provide the binary output stream (S2). See Lecoutre, paragraph [0045]-[0048]; Fig. 3. As a result, Lecoutre fails to teach or suggest the elements of “a partial decoding and decompression unit configured to partially decode and decompress coded data in accordance with the post-quantization condition set by the user using the condition setting unit, to thereby reproduce image data identical to image data reproduced by decoding and decompressing the coded data that have been subjected to a post-quantization processing in accordance with the post-quantization condition.” The Examiner also conceded (see page 2 of the Office Action) that Lecoutre fails to teach or suggest the elements of “the post-quantization condition set by the user using the condition setting unit,

to thereby reproduce image data identical to image data reproduced by decoding and decompressing the coded data that have been subjected to a post-quantization processing in accordance with the post-quantization condition.” The Applicants agree with the Examiner’s position in this regard. Thus, in view of at least these foregoing reasons, Lecoutre fails to teach or suggest each element of claim 1.

Further, Chen fails to teach the above missing elements. Chen, instead, teaches a method of converting a pre-conversation bitstream into a post-conversion bitstream, wherein the requantization of DC chroma coefficients is performed if requested by a user setting. See Chen, column 10, lines 60-62; column 12, lines 30-35; Fig. 3. As a result, Chen fails to teach or suggest the elements of “a partial decoding and decompression unit configured to partially decode and decompress coded data in accordance with the post-quantization condition set by the user using the condition setting unit, to thereby reproduce image data identical to image data reproduced by decoding and decompressing the coded data that have been subjected to a post-quantization processing in accordance with the post-quantization condition,” as recited in claim 1. Thus, Chen fails to teach or suggest each element of claim 1.

Thus, in view of at least these foregoing reasons, Lecoutre in view of Chen fails to teach or suggest each element of claim 1. In addition dependent claims 2-7 and 10-12 are patentable over the cited art because of their dependencies on claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 and 10-12 are respectfully requested.

With respect to claims 17 and 24, these claims, as amended, recite analogous elements to those in claim 1. Thus, for the reasons discussed in connection with claim 1, Lecoutre in view of Chen fails to teach or suggest each element of claims 17 and 24. In addition, dependent claims 18-22 and 25-29 are patentable over the cited art because of each of these claims depends on claim 17 or 24. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17-22 and 24-29 are respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Lecoutre in view of Chen in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,587,508 issued to Hanamura et al. (hereinafter “Hanamura”).

Claims 8 and 9 depend on claim 1 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Thus, for at least the reasons mentioned in connection with claim 1, Lecoutre in view of Chen fails to teach or suggest each element of claims 8 and 9. Moreover, Hanamura fails to teach or suggest the missing elements. The Applicants cannot discern and the Examiner has not cited the portion of Hanamura that teaches the missing elements. Thus, for at least these reasons, Lecoutre in view of Chen in further view of Hanamura fails to teach or suggest each element of claims 8 and 9. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8 and 9 are respectfully requested.

Claims 13-16, 23, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Lecoutre in view of Chen in further view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0154823 filed by Okada (hereinafter "Okada").

Claims 13-16, 23, and 30 depend on claims 1, 17, and 24, respectively, and incorporate the limitations thereof. Thus, for at least the reasons mentioned in connection with claims 1, 17, and 24, Lecoutre in view of Chen fails to teach or suggest each element of claims 13-16, 23, and 30. In addition, Okada fails to teach or suggest the missing elements. The Applicants cannot discern and the Examiner has not cited the portion of Okada that teaches the missing elements. Thus, for at least these reasons, Lecoutre in view of Chen in further view of Okada fails to teach or suggest each element of claims 13-16, 23, and 30. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 13-16, 23, and 30 are respectfully requested.

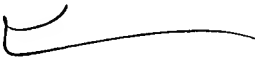
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (408) 720 8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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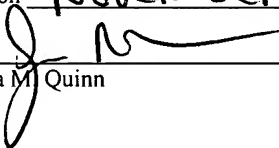


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